

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

From the Executive Director

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Executive Director

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As the September edition of the VDFP Logbook goes to print, our nation is deeply distressed by the overwhelming devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Tens of thousands of people are now living in circumstances we could not begin to imagine. Citizens from all over the United States are being called on to donate time, resources, and services.

The fire and emergency services community is taking a number of steps to provide resources to those in need. Many have already responded to numerous requests for relief. We continue to encourage members of the Virginia Fire and Emergency Services Community who wish to aide in relief efforts to follow the proper channels and NOT TO SELF-DISPATCH. All emergency should be coordinated through the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) as any request for assistance must come through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) that Virginia has with the affected states.

The Federal Emergency Management agency (FEMA)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued an urgent request for fire service emergency assistance in response to Hurricane Katrina. FEMA is calling on the nation's fire service to send 1,000 two-person firefighter teams to assist citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina. FEMA is coordinating this effort through USFA. As with the VEOC, no one should deploy without official notification of acceptance as you will be assuming all liability and risks if you self-dispatch.

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs is in constant communication with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and public safety personnel and is providing daily staff support to the VEOC. As we track Virginia Fire and Emergency Services involvement to this tragedy, we continue to offer our assistance as additional needs come into focus. VDFP personnel are working extended hours so that routine VDFP programs and services go uninterrupted. While fulfilling emergency support, we maintain our commitment to provide superior education, training and resources to our customers.

As always, our hearts go out to all the families and communities that have been directly affected by one of the most devastating natural disasters in our nation's history.

Sincerely,



Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr.
buddy.hyde@vdfp.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION NETWORK EARNs HIGH MARKS

Cris Leonard

"I found this network a great benefit and resource for improving recruitment and retention and still value the ideas and sources that were made available."

J. W. Ball, (former) Director of Public Safety, Amherst County, Virginia

"It is a great networking tool for R & R ideas ... The makeup of career, combination and volunteer agencies helps keep things in perspective and not one sided. I really believe this group has only begun to realize its potential."

Max Bornstein, Deputy Director, Prince George Fire and EMS, Virginia

"There is an energy within the group that offers much encouragement to those in attendance. As each of us strive to achieve the highest possible results in our recruitment and retention activities, this melting pot of ideas offers us many resources that we surely would not have been exposed to on our own."

Gary Dalton, President, The Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads



Roughly four years ago three Richmond area EMS and Fire Recruiters got together for lunch and an opportunity to swap ideas. "Full time" recruiters were not common at the time (they still are not plentiful) and Amy Howard, Dave Tesh and Cris Leonard were fortunate to be in close proximity to one another. These recruiters, seeking volunteers, knew well the value of networking. Today, Virginia's Recruitment and Retention Network is going strong and proving very beneficial.

"Our e - distribution list reaches about thirty(+) people and 40 - 50% of them usually make our meetings" said Leonard. The Network is a diverse mix of Emergency Services recruiters. Meetings include volunteer and career personnel seeking Fire Department and / or Rescue Squad members. "The network has membership chairpersons, officers and upper management participating. Some of our associates have diverse responsibilities with their agencies. They all have a clear interest in and need for increased staffing and growth. All of the participants bring good ideas to the table and really value information exchange" added Leonard. "Sharing experiences, both good and bad, is vital to the group. This reduces the need to constantly reinvent the wheel."

The Network is a statewide "organization". Several counties are represented and the group meets around the Commonwealth based on the welcome of a willing host. Some upper crust programs have benefited this very informal group. Marketing and Public Relations Professionals have addressed the group. A television affiliate representative and the Virginia Office of EMS have also conducted very informative programs at their luncheon meetings. The group meets every other month and is still growing. Productivity begins with simple conversation and the benefits of this group are undeniable.

Members have shared information on everything from grant / fundraising opportunities, application processes, incentives or benefits, orientation and training programs and recognition and awards ceremonies. It is not uncommon to come away with great advertising and promotional ideas or a perfect slogan or "catch phrase" to aid recruitment. The openness of the group and the varied topics that surface really aid the learning experiences. For information about this group contact – Cris Leonard, Hanover Fire and EMS, via e – mail at jcleonard@co.hanover.va.us or (804) 365-4843.

2nd Annual Virginia Volunteer and Combination Department Summit a Huge Success

The 2nd Annual Virginia Public Safety Volunteer Summit "Bridging the Gap for Solutions" was held August 27-28, 2005 in Charlottesville, Virginia. The summit was hosted by VDFP, Albermarle County Fire and EMS, Hanover Fire and EMS, Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, and the Volunteer/Combination Officer's Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.



The summit provided decision makers clear guidance on how to manage the unique challenges associated with volunteer based and combination emergency services. Best practices and proven strategies were presented to approximately 80 attendees, along with facilitated workshops. Topics included: citizen complaints, infighting among volunteers, clashes between paid and volunteer members, and challenges in recruiting and maintaining volunteers. County Administrators, Town Managers, Mayors, Elected Officials, Fire & EMS Chiefs, and Volunteer Organizational Leaders from across the Commonwealth were in attendance.

"I was extremely impressed with the turnout of the summit", said VDFP Executive Director Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr. "The summit provided an ideal venue for decision makers to gain insight into Virginia's fire service. The workshops were extremely interactive and provided valuable tools and resources. I anticipate an even larger audience at the next summit."

VDFP and VFSB - In Agreement

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) and the Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this past August. The purpose of the MOU is to establish mutually accepted duties, responsibilities and expectations between the VDFP and VFSB. The MOU is provided to help define activities and expectations with Code of Virginia sections 9.1-200, 9.1-201, 9.1-202, 9.1, 203, 9.1-204, and 38.2-401.



Photo left: Seated: Floyd Green, Tommy Fuqua, Lora Sharkey, Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr., Dennis Mitchell Row 2: Brian Mullins, Richard Steinberg, Ken Brown, Susan Williams, Chris Kollman, Gary Eads. Top Row: Michael Reilly, Robert Smith, Ed Altizer.

Signing of the MOU between VDFP and VFSB

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator 1035 - Level 1 on Track

VDFFP piloted the Public Fire and Life Safety Educator 1035 - Level 1 course at the 10th Annual Virginia Fire and Life Safety Conference in Williamsburg this past August. The class was maxed out with 48 students - with even more hopeful students on a waiting list.

"The class went extremely well", stated Russ Chandler, Virginia Fire Marshal Academy Chief. "With any pilot course you can expect the need for revisions, but we have already begun incorporating the feedback from the course and I anticipate a quick turnaround on a sanctioned program."

In opening remarks at the conference, Executive Director Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr. expressed his commitment to Public Fire and Life Safety Education and the development of Course 1035 Levels 2 and 3. To meet the demand for the existing course, a class will be held at the 2005 Winchester Regional Fire and Rescue School in October.

Virginia Weekend at NFA Well Attended

The 2005 Virginia Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland was held August 26-28, 2005. Chief Deputy Director Scott Hechler welcomed attendees.



"This was my first experience with the Virginia State Weekend at the fire academy", explained Chief Deputy Director Scott Hechler. "I encourage members of the fire and emergency services on all levels to embrace this valuable learning and networking opportunity."

Courses held at NFA included Arson Detection for the First Responder; Command and Control of Wildland/Urban Interface; Fire Operations for The Structural Chief Officer; Courtroom Preparation and Testimony for First Responders; Incident Safety Officer; The Incident Command System; and Training Operations in Small Departments. Virginia Weekend was attended by 153 fire and emergency services members including VDFFP staff.

119th Annual Virginia State Firefighter Association Conference in Hampton

The Virginia State Firefighters Association's Annual Convention was held August 18-20, 2005 at the new 344,000 square foot Hampton Roads Exhibit Hall. VDFFP provided training and logistical support for the convention.

The Virginia Fire Services Board held their regularly scheduled August meeting in conjunction with the Convention. Former Virginia Fire Services Board Chairperson, Richard (Dickie) Harris was elected President of the Virginia State Firefighters Association.

2005 Fire Prevention Week - October 9-15

It's almost that time of year again. You guessed it, Fire Prevention Week. It is during this week that fire personnel all over the country hit the streets, schools, daycare centers and many other places in an attempt to spread the word. Spreading the word about fire prevention is of utmost importance to us, because a fire prevented is a life saved. Fire Prevention Week, which seeks to educate residents on fire safety, will run from October 9-15.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK • OCTOBER 9-15 2005

Use Candles with Care



With recent tragedies due to natural disasters it is important to understand that according to the United States Fire Administration, in 2004, fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined. We can prevent unnecessary fire related deaths and injuries through education.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is - Use Candles with Care - When you go out, blow out! The following statistics are from the NFPA:

- *Over the last decade, candle fires have tripled. In 2001 alone, an estimated 18,000 home fires started by candles were reported to fire departments, an all time high. These fires resulted in 190 deaths, 1,450 injuries and an estimated property loss of \$265 million.*
- *Forty-one percent of U.S. home candle fires begin in the bedroom, causing 24% of the deaths resulting from these fires.*
- *A special study found that the candles were being used for light in one-third of the fatal home candle fires, generally because power to the home had been shut off due to nonpayment (24%) or as a result of a temporary power outage (7%).*
- *December had almost twice the number of home candle fires of an average month.*
- *Seven out of 10 households in the U.S. now use candles, with younger adults more likely to use them than older adults.*

There are numerous resources available for you to implement a successful Fire Prevention Week Campaign. Safety tips, sample press releases, how-to guides, media materials and statistics are all readily available. The following is a small compilation of websites containing useful information for your Fire Prevention Week campaign:

WWW.VAFIRE.COM

WWW.NFPA.ORG

WWW.USFA.FEMA.GOV

WWW.HOMESAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG

WWW.FIRESAFETY.GOV

WWW.CODEREDROVER.ORG

Equity Conference

VDFP, in conjunction with Richmond Fire and Emergency Services and Henrico County Division of Fire hosted "Equity Conference 2005: *Diversity Cornerstones for Success*" August 3-7, 2005. The Conference attracted community, government, and emergency services staff and administration personnel, with the focus on increasing diversity and cultural competency in organizations and communities as a whole.

Fire and Emergency Services Professional Development Focus Group

As a follow up to the Mid-Atlantic Fire and Emergency Services Professional Development Summit held in May, VDFP hosted a focus group session on August 26th to continue the momentum toward enhancing the dialogue among colleges and fire and emergency services stakeholders. The purpose of this first focus group meeting was to develop a plan of action in regards to fire and emergency services higher education programs in Virginia. The focus group led by the Executive Director of VDFP, Aubrey W. "Buddy" Hyde, Jr. group lasted the entire day.

Also on hand to show their support were Marilyn Harris – Chief Deputy Secretary of Public Safety, Peter Blake – Secretary of Education, Nancy Roberts – Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Monty Sullivan – Vice Chancellor of Academic Services and Research for the Virginia Community College System, Michael Mohler – President of the Virginia Professional Fire Fighters Association, Kenneth Jones – Fire Chief of Newport News Fire Department.



Executive Director Hyde leads focus group.

VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

Summer has ended and it's time to double check your equipment after the summer firefighting fire season. In addition, it's time to clean our personal protective clothing thoroughly prior to the fall and winter season. Be sure not to use harsh detergents in the cleaning process and allow your gear to air dry. You should not use a commercial dryer or your PPE may be damaged or degraded. There are commercial vendors who will clean your gear thoroughly. The most important aspect is to clean your PPE of any contaminants from the summer season. Clean PPE will protect you better than gear that is contaminated. Be safe and "Everyone Goes Home".

It's also time to clean any of our portable equipment including nozzles, forced entry rescue equipment, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). Please be sure to check the operation. If any item does not function properly, take the component out of service and have it repaired.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

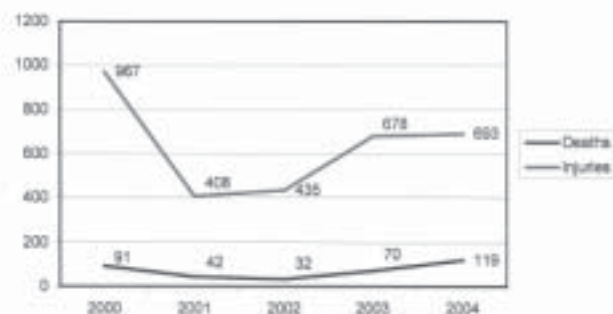
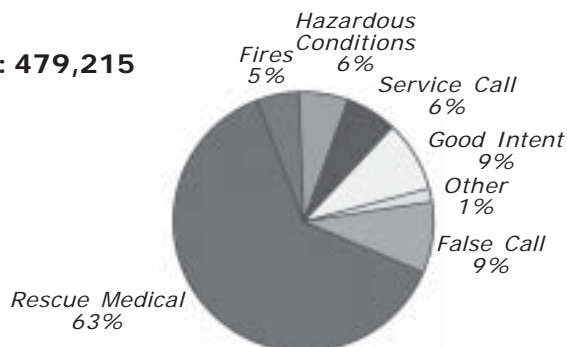
*Did you know, according to the United States Fire Administration, the home appliances most often involved in **electrical fires** are electric stoves and ovens, dryers, central heating units, televisions, radios and record players?*

Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring. Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately. Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen. Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons and hair dryers. Check your electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If the cords are frayed or cracked, replace them.

Fire in Virginia - 2004

Virginia Fire Departments Calls: Total Calls in 2004: 479,215

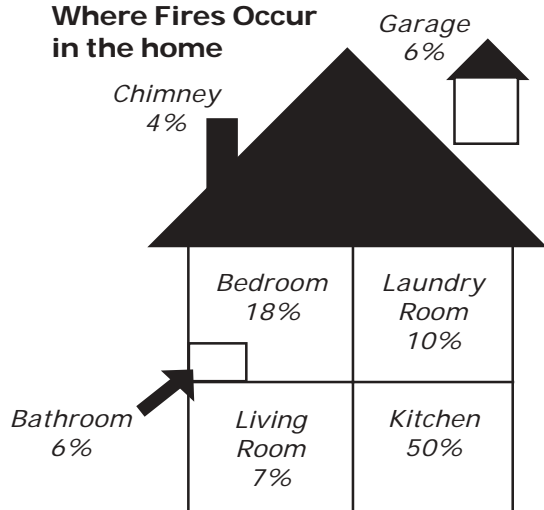
Event	Number
Rescue/Medical	301,449
Fires	24,846
Hazardous Condition	30,072
Service Call	29,661
Good Intent	43,869
False Call	42,455
Other	6,863
Total	479,215



Virginia Fire Related Injuries and Deaths

Civilian Fire Reported Injuries	506
Civilian Fire Reported Deaths	118
Fire Fighter Fire Related Injuries	187
Fire Fighter Fire Related Deaths	1
Total Reported Fire Dollar Loss	\$585,976,242

Where Fires Occur in the home



Interesting Virginia Fire Related Statistics

Heat Source	# of Fires
Fireworks	55
Cigarettes	727
Matches/lighters	834
Candles	163
Lightning	124

Virginia Fire Departments

Municipal fire departments	599
Career departments	15
Volunteer departments	530
Combination (career/volunteer)	54
Fire brigades	28
Other (military, airport, etc.)	38
Total Departments	765

VDFP Training

Total # of Funded Schools	595
Total # of Non-Funded Schools	1,322
Total # of Certificates Awarded	21,534

Aid to Localities Allocation in FY05
\$14,604,601.52



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

National Preparedness Month

*2005 Wise County Regional School
September 10-11, 2005
Wise Training Center*

*2005 Central Virginia Regional School
September 17-18, 2005
Central Virginia Community College*

October

*Fire Prevention Week
October 9-15, 2005*

*2005 Training Expo South Boston Regional School
October 1-2, 2005
South Boston Fire Training Grounds*

*VFSB Board Meeting
October 13-14, 2005
Loudoun County*

*4th Annual Professional Development Seminar
October 13-14, 2005
McLean, Virginia*

*2005 Winchester Regional School
October 22-23 & 29-30, 2005
Dowell J. Howard Vocational Technical Center*

Fighting Fires With Facts

In 2004, every 1 minute, 6 seconds a Virginia fire department responded to an emergency call. In addition to fighting fires, firefighters are busy responding to some other life threatening or emergency situations. Every hour, Virginia fire departments responded to 54 calls: 3 fire calls, 34 rescue/EMS calls, and 17 other calls. Every hour, 3 of the 54 calls required assistance by another fire department.

*Based on VFIRS 2004 data as of
07/22/2005 – "Fighting Fires with Facts"*